

REMARKS

A proposed Fig. 2A showing the subject matter of claim 50 is attached. The specification has been amended to provide a description of this drawing.

The drawing objection based on the failure to show the features of claims 48 and 49 is obviated by the cancellation of these claims. Claim 51 has been amended to depend from claim 41, and to delete the recitation of an interchangeable frame the dispensing and take-up rollers 6 are shown in Figure 1.

Claims 31-38 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Lengyel et al. U.S. 5,731,658. This rejection is traversed for the reasons following.

Applicant's independent claim 31 recites a fluorescent film formed as a silicone elastomer in which fluorescent particles are embedded. Silicone, as defined by the American Heritage Dictionary, is "Any of a group of semi-inorganic polymers based on the structural unit R_2SiO , where R is an organic group, characterized by wide-range thermal stability, high lubricity, extreme water repellence, and physiochemical inertness, used in adhesives, lubricants, protective coatings, paints, electrical insulation, synthetic rubber, and prosthetic replacements for bodily parts." An elastomer is defined as "Any of various polymers having elastic properties of natural rubber." The two terms taken together clearly refer to a synthetic rubber made of silicone, which makes it suitable for used as a flexible film which can be wound on rollers or used as a bandage.

Lengyel et al. discloses a light box 10 having a transparent window 18 and interior surfaces 12a, 12b with a phosphor coating 14. The phosphor coating is applied as a binder in which phosphors are suspended, wherein the binder is preferably ethyl silicate, but may be other organo-silicate compounds including methyl silicate and isopropyl silicate. As shown in Figure 3, the

binder and the phosphors are applied as a slurry which is cured in an oven to drive off moisture and leave a residual binder which is transparent to UV light.

Lengyel et al. neither discloses nor suggests embedding the phosphors in a silicone elastomer. The silicon oxide [sic; silicon dioxide] recited in claim 3 is not a silicone elastomer but a simple inorganic compound which in its pure form is quartz, which would be totally unsuitable for use as a flexible film or a bondage.

Since Lengyel et al. neither discloses nor suggests embedding luminescent particles or phosphors in a silicone elastomer, the refusal to afford any patentable weight to the process limitations is moot. The claimed product and the prior art clearly have unobvious differences.

Claims 41-42 and 52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Iwana JP 404174952A. This too is traversed.

Applicant's independent claim 41 recites an irradiation arrangement including a low pressure discharge lamp and a fluorescent film formed as a silicone elastomer in which luminescent particles are embedded.

Iwama discloses an ultraviolet lamp and a color filter made of silicone rubber with zinc oxide particles, which serve as an ultraviolet absorber. The zinc oxide particles are not luminescent, i.e. they do not emit light. They simply absorb light. If they both absorbed and emitted light, they would be phosphors. However, there is no suggestion in Iwama of using any particles which are either luminescent or phosphorescent.

Claim 52 has not been considered by the examiner because it recites an intended use. Accordingly, this claim has been cancelled and is now presented as independent method claim 58.

Since claims 31 and 41 are clearly patentable over the art of record, it is not deemed necessary to address the rejections of the dependent claims at this time.

Withdrawal of the rejections and early allowance are solicited. If any objections remain, a call to the undersigned is requested.

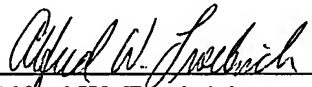
A check in the amount \$43.00 is enclosed in payment for the addition of one new independent claim independent claim in excess of three.

If any additional fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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